

George H. Proffit collection

S1087

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
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Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Proffit, George H.
Title	George H. Proffit collection
Date	1837
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S1087

Preferred Citation

George W. Proffit collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

George H. Proffit was born on September 4, 1807, in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1828, he moved to Petersburg, Indiana, where he sold merchandise both there and in Portersville. After studying law, George was admitted to the Bar and practiced in Petersburg. At the time, he wrote this journal about the emigration of the Potawatomi Indians. In 1837, he was Assistant Agent for the Potawatomi Removal. Mr. Proffit was a Whig, who served in the Indiana House of Representatives as well as the United States Congress. President Tyler appointed him as Minister to Brazil, where he served from 1843-1844. He died in Louisville, Kentucky, on September 7, 1847.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains a photostat as well as a xeroxed copy of handwritten daily journal entries by George H. Proffit, from August 20 until October 27, 1837. These entries document the removal of the Potawatomi Indians from a camp on Crooked Creek on August 20 until the last entry made in Harmony, Missouri on October 27. Mr. Proffit calls his entries "Journal of Emigration." He gives number of miles traveled, rations issued, and facts about the trip.

On September 22, he wrote: "Andrew Jackson this day joined the party." September 23, Mr. Proffit noted: "Being apprehensive of further difficulty with Jackson and considering his life in danger, sent him to Mr. Davis, the Agent for the Pottawattomis."

The final entry states: "I have the honor to inform you, that the emigrating party under my charge arrived at their destination on the 23rd and were received by the Agent Mr. Davis. I much regret that the movements of the party have been less speedy than was anticipated. The almost continued rains caused the river and creeks of the country through which we travelled for a long time impassable. We were obliged to encamp on the bank of Grand River nine days, there being neither a bridge or ferry across that stream."

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from the National Archives.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2014/09/25 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Indiana
- Missouri

Subject(s)

- Diaries
- Photostat
- Potawatomi Indians--Missions